

The undersigned attorney acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's willingness to grant her an interview next Tuesday, July 29, 1997, at his office in Washington, DC. This amendment is submitted in advance of that interview with the hope of clarifying the outstanding issues, thus making the interview more productive.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 11 as follows:

1. (Twice amended) An acid-dye and coffee stain resistant carpet comprising:
a backing material; and
stain resistant sheath/core bicomponent face fibers affixed in said backing material and bound thereto, said face fibers having a core of [a first polyamide component] nylon 6; and a sheath which is from about 3 to about 15 weight % of the fiber and which substantially or completely covers [covering] said core and which sheath is of a second polyamide component which is inherently chemically compatible with said first polyamide component, said second polyamide component comprising at least one stain resistant polyamide polymer selected from the group consisting of:



where x and y may be the same or different integers from about 4 to about 30, the sum of x and y is greater than 13, and n is greater than about 40; and



where z is an integer from about 9 to about 30 and m is greater than about 40;

(c) derivatives of (a) or (b) including polymers substituted with one or more sulfonate, halogenate, aliphatic or aromatic functionality; and

(d) copolymers and blends of (a), (b) and (c);

wherein said fiber has a percent steam heatsetting shrinkage value which is about 70% or less of a percent steam heatsetting shrinkage value of an otherwise identical fiber consisting of only said first polyamide component[.]; and

said carpet in an uncolored state having a red drink staining depth of less than 15 CIE ΔE units and a coffee staining depth of less than about 10 CIE ΔE units.

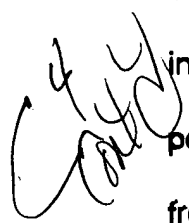
11. (Amended) The carpet of claim 1, wherein said fiber comprises from about 90% [10%] by weight to about 97% by weight of said core phase and from about 10% [90%] by weight to about 3% by weight of said sheath phase.

Please cancel claims 6, 7, 8 and 12.

Please add the following new claims 20-23:

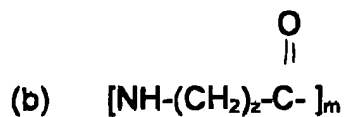
20. An acid-dye and coffee stain resistant carpet comprising:

- a backing material; and
- stain resistant sheath/core bicomponent face fibers affixed in said backing material and bound thereto;
- said face fibers comprising: a core of a first polyamide component; and a sheath occupying from about 3 to 10 percent of the fiber and substantially or completely


 covering said core, said sheath comprising a second polyamide component which is inherently chemically compatible with said first polyamide component, said second polyamide component comprising at least one stain resistant polyamide polymer selected from the group consisting of:



where x and y may be the same or different integers from about 4 to about 30, the sum of x and y is greater than 13, and n is greater than about 40; and



where z is an integer from about 9 to about 30 and m is greater than about 40;

(c) derivatives of (a) or (b) including polymers substituted with one or more sulfonate, halogenate, aliphatic or aromatic functionality; and

(d) copolymers and blends of (a), (b) and (c);

wherein said fiber has a percent steam heatsetting shrinkage value which is about 70% or less of a percent steam heatsetting shrinkage value of an otherwise identical fiber consisting of only said first polyamide component; and

said carpet in an uncolored state having a red drink staining depth of less than 15 CIE ΔE units and a coffee staining depth of less than about 10 CIE ΔE units.


 21. The carpet of claim 20 wherein said first polyamide component is nylon 6 or nylon 6/6.